

## Blocks for scheduling written in stone

**By Regina Sechter**  
*Staff Writer*

As of the 2001-2002 school year, Grimsley, along with the other 13 high schools in Guilford County, may operate on a modified block schedule. Freshmen and sophomores must brace themselves for a major change.

After four long years of debate, the Educational Program Service Committee of the Board (EPS Committee of the Board), as well as other members of the community and the Guilford County School System Administration have reached a consensus. If money allows, beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, students will take 5 classes each day. First, third, and fifth periods will be 95 minutes long and second and fourth periods will be 50 minutes long (period configuration is subject to change).

This new schedule has its advantages and disadvantages. What all the different committees involved with block seem to stress is that no schedule will perfectly fit the needs of all students. The county needs to have a system-wide schedule that will work for the majority of kids.

From the view of classes at Weaver Center, the modified, system wide, block schedule is beneficial. With the schedule Weaver can be utilized more efficiently. With all fourteen Guilford County schools beginning and ending at different times, it is difficult for Weaver to offer its courses to all kids in the county and thus give all kids equal opportunities. If all the schools begin and end at the same time, scheduling Weaver classes will be a much easier process.

Not only would operating on a system wide schedule benefit the



**Kris Cooke and Dot Kearns discuss plans for block scheduling at a community meeting on December 7, 1999. The school system hopes to implement block scheduling in the 2001-2002 school year.**

Weaver program, but it would improve the lives of high school athletes as well. Many students active in sports often have to miss their fifth and sixth periods in order to participate in a game held at a school that gets out earlier. If all the schools dismiss at the same time, this schedule conflict is eliminated.

The new schedule also offers opportunities for a student to mess up

yet still bounce back and graduate on time. This is because students would be earning eight credits per year, versus the 6 to 7 credits (depending on whether or not the student takes a zero period) they should be earning on the present schedule. This chance to make mistakes will hopefully decrease the drop out rate. On the present schedule, if a freshman fails two classes he or she is out of luck and will be in high

school for an extra year. This discourages students greatly and explains why 50% of students who drop out are freshmen.

However, the schedule has its downfalls. Dr. Kee, the International Baccalaureate coordinator at Grimsley, IB for short, is concerned with the fact that his Advanced Placement and IB students will be at a large disadvantage.

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## Veterans receive honor

**By Dina Ackermann**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Tom Brokaw has dubbed them "the greatest generation." Just as the ceremony for them at Grimsley took place quietly, leaving many Whirlies unaware of its occurrence, so does their sacrifice frequently go unnoticed.

There was something special about these men and women, something different as they congregated on the day after the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Because of the efforts of Joe Noah and the Preddy Foundation, this group was able to unveil a plaque in the main hall, to honor the memory of their classmates who died in World War II.

Following the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the presentation of the colors, Walker Rucker, class of 1941, addressed the assembled crowd. Those present included Greensboro High School graduates, members of the ROTC, and distinguished members of the Grimsley community, such as Lody Glenn, who was principal of Grimsley from 1969-1981.

Mr. Rucker said, "We entered Greensboro High School under the ascendant star of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. We thought if he can make it, we can! By striking out three letters he changed the word Depression to press on."

As Mr. Rucker reminisced, he evoked images that transformed these men and women in their seventies and eighties into young teens who at one time "considered a Whirlie trip to Winston-Salem an adventure and the graduation jaunt to D.C. a dream fulfilled" but "who saw the four corners of the earth, obscure places with names like Aleutian Islands, Port Morsly, Point Hoc, and the Zugspitz," said Mr. Rucker.

Mr. Rucker added humorous stories recalling the metamorphosis of his classmates from students to soldiers. "Pernell 'Pinkie' Kennedy might have had trouble finding his model Ford in the school parking lot, but he was unerring in locating the Herman Goering works in Lintz," said Rucker. Unfortunately, many men like Kennedy, graduates of Grimsley, did not return.

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## New bond will benefit Guilford County schools

**By Ashley Kelly**  
*Reporter*

For several years, Grimsley, as well as many other schools in Guilford County, has gone without numerous learning advantages due to lack of money. A new bond may bring an end to this.

Each year, as more students enroll in Guilford County schools, there is a decrease in

learning space and a growing need for better technology. Mrs. Sandra Frye, the Director of Communications of Guilford County, says, "There is a tremendous need for this bond, because our schools are in desperate need of renovations." Major construction in Guilford County schools has not occurred since the late 1970's, and, for this reason, Mrs. Frye says, "New renovations are long overdue."

If this bond is passed in May of 2000, Grimsley will receive \$12,181,000, which will go towards air conditioning, technology, and expansion. A certain amount of the money will also go towards technological improvements in the Cultural Arts and Vocational departments. Mrs. Teague has long awaited such a change but says, "I'll believe it when I see it." "These new proposals are strategies to

encourage parents at Grimsley and students to vote for the bond."

The school bond will affect 24 elementary, middle, and high schools. Other high schools that will benefit from this bond are Page, Dudley, Andrews, and High Point Central. Each school will be given money to enhance classroom space. As far as

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Whirlie basketball heads into the Little Four Tournament with strong hopes.

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